

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed December 17, 2003. Claims 17-23 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer due to an election/restriction requirement. Applicant has added Claims 24-30 and respectfully submit that the claims are supported by the specification and add no new matter. Claims 1-16 and 24-30 are pending in this Application. Claims 1-4, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Election/Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action mailed September 26, 2003, the Examiner set forth an election restriction requirement of the claimed inventions between Claims 1-16, drawn to an exposure method (classified in class 430, subclass 22), and Claims 17-23, drawn to a mask (classified in class 430, subclass 5). Applicant made a provisional election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Claims 1-16. Applicant hereby confirms that election. Accordingly, Applicant hereby cancels Claims 17-23 without prejudice or disclaimer and submits that the cancelled claims are subject to the filing of a divisional application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 8-9 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,284,413 issued to Thomas E. Adams ("Adams").

Adams discloses a system and method of manufacturing reticles using reticle primitives. A reticle primitive is defined as a reticle that contains one layer of a given circuit module. (Col. 2, Lines 27-29).

Claim 1 recites a method comprising the step of "moving a selected feature from a first pattern file to a second pattern file."

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference fails to disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention. Adams fails to teach a method for reducing exposure times of high density patterns on a photomask comprising the step of "moving a selected feature from a first pattern file to a second pattern file," as recited by amended Claim 1. Adams does

not disclose moving a selected feature from a first pattern file to a second pattern file. Instead, Adams purports to teach that a pattern may be formed in photoresist 330 by shining radiation through the reticle primitive. (Col. 6, Lines 1-11). In contrast, Applicant's written description discloses that a pattern file may be processed and used by a laser writer to print a pattern in a resist layer of a photomask blank. (Specification, Pages 17-18). The cited reference fails to disclose the recited limitations and, therefore, cannot anticipate Claim 1.

Given that Claims 2-4, 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-4, 8 and 9 are allowable. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 1-4, 8 and 9.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates Examiner's allowance of Claims 10-16 and indication that Claims 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has provided remarks to the Examiner to overcome the rejections to Claims 1-4, 8 and 9 and requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claims 1-9.

CONCLUSION

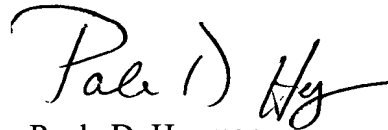
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful review of the application. Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and full allowance of Claims 1-16 and new Claims 24-30.

Applicant believes no further fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2581.

Respectfully submitted,

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